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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/714,876	11/18/2003	Hideto Matsumoto	116531	3120
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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			EXAMINER DINH, KHANH Q	
			ART UNIT 2151	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/714,876	Applicant(s) MATSUMOTO, HIDETO	
	Examiner Khanh Dinh	Art Unit 2151	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/19/05, 12/5/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-28 are presented for examination.

Specification

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-19, 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ono et al., US pat. No.6,996,535.

As to claims 1, 21, 22, 23, 27 and 28, Ono discloses that in a communication system having a mail server and a plurality of electronic devices which are connected with a network, a predetermined e-mail address being assigned to said plurality of electronic devices, each of said plurality of electronic devices comprising:

a first determination system (210 fig.4) that determines whether an e-mail address of an e-mail message transmitted to said mail server coincides with the predetermined e-mail address (checking for coincidence between the received status of trading information

including email with previously stored in the storage device, see abstract, figs.3, 4, col.5 lines 9-63 and col.7 lines 9-36; a second determination system that determines whether the e-mail message addressed to the predetermined e-mail address is directed to the electronic device to which said second determination system belongs in accordance with contents of the e-mail message addressed to the predetermined e-mail address (selecting and transmitting orders, see col.6 lines 2-42); and a processing system that executes a procedure corresponding to the e-mail message when said second determination system determines that the e-mail message is directed to the electronic device to which said second determination system belongs (see col. 6 line 43 to col.7 line 60).

As to claim 2, Ono discloses a destination device information obtaining system that obtains information of a destination device of the e-mail message in accordance with the contents of the e-mail message, said second determination system determining whether the e-mail message is directed to the electronic device to which said second determination system belongs in accordance with whether the information of the destination device designates the electronic device to which said second determination system belongs (see fig.4, col. 5 line 54 to col.6 line 58 and col.7 line 9-60).

As to claim 4, Ono discloses that the e-mail message includes a first character string having a predetermined character string followed by a second character string having information designating the destination device (see col.7 lines 23-60 and col.11 lines

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16-51).

As to claim 5, Ono discloses that the e-mail message has attached data to be processed, wherein each of said plurality of electronic device has data type obtaining system that obtains a data type of the attached data from the contents of the e-mail message, and wherein said second determination system determines whether the e-mail message is directed to the electronic device to which said second determination system belongs based on whether the attached data can be processed by said electronic device (see col.9 line 19 to col.10 line 57 and col.11 lines 17-52).

As to claim 6, Ono discloses that processing of the attached data including printing of the attached data (see col.11 line 25 to col.12 line 57).

As to claim 8, Ono discloses an e-mail deleting system that deletes the e-mail message corresponding to the procedure executed by the processing system from the mail server (see col.11 line 25 to col.12 line 57).

As to claim 9, Ono discloses an e-mail deleting system that deletes the e-mail message corresponding to the procedure executed by the processing system from the mail server predetermine period after the procedure has been executed (see col.9 line 19 to col.10 line 57 and col.11 lines 17-52).

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As to claim 10, Ono discloses that the procedure executed by said processing system includes creation and transmission of a replying e-mail message replying to the e-mail message (see col.9 line 19 to col.10 line 57 and col.11 lines 17-52).

As to claim 11, Ono discloses that the e-mail message contains a request for a status of the electronic device, and wherein the replying e-mail message contains a status of the electronic device to which the processing system belongs (see col.9 line 19 to col.10 line 57 and col.11 lines 17-52).

As to claim 12, Ono discloses that the e-mail message has attached data to be processed, and wherein processing of the attached data including printing of the attached data (see col.11 line 25 to col.12 line 57).

Claims 13-19 are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claims 1, 2, 8, 9-12 respectively.

As to claim 24, Ono discloses that the communication system is configured such that, when the mail server receives the e-mail message including the information indicative of the designating at least one of the plurality of electronic devices and information indicative of the designated information, a replying e-mail message containing a status in terms of the designated information of the designated at least one of the plurality of electronic devices being transmitted to said computer (see col.9 line 19 to col.10 line 57

and col.11 lines 17-52).

As to claim 25, Ono discloses a display, a visual interface being provided so as to display a window on said display, the window allowing the operator to select at least one of the plurality of electronic devices sharing the common e-mail address, the visual interface inserting information indicative of the selected at least one of the plurality of electronic devices in the e-mail message (see col.9 line 19 to col.10 line 57 and col.11 lines 17-52).

As to claim 26, Ono discloses that the window displayed on said display allows the operator to select one or more pieces of information to be obtained from the designated one of the plurality of electronic devices, the visual interface inserting information indicative of the one or more pieces of information to be obtained from the designated at least one of the plurality of electronic devices in the e-mail message (see col.11 line 25 to col.12 line 57).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 7 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ono and in view of Taniguchi et al., US pat. No.6,801,962.

Ono's teachings still applied as in item 4 above. Ono does not specifically disclose the status includes at least one of a remaining amount of toner and a remaining amount of sheet and the attached data is TIFF format data. However, Taniguchi discloses the status includes at least one of a remaining amount of toner and a remaining amount of sheet and the attached data is TIFF format data (see col.15 line 25 to col.16 line 37). It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement Taniguchi's teachings into the computer system of Ono to process printing data information because it would have enabled users to check the appropriate printing displays and therefore prevented unnecessary outputs in a communication network.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

None of the cited prior art discloses or teaches a communication method comprising of: the information of the destination device designates the electronic device to which said second determination system belongs and at least one other electronic device, the information of the destination device designating the electronic device to which said

second determination system belongs and said at least one other electronic device, wherein each of said plurality of electronic device includes: an e-mail updating system that updates the e-mail message in said mail server by creating a modified e-mail message which is similar to the e-mail message except that the information of the destination device is modified such that the information designating the electronic device to which said second determination system belongs is deleted and transmits the modified e-mail message to the predetermined e-mail address and by deleting the e-mail message including the unmodified information and stored in the mail server; and an e-mail deleting system that deletes the e-mail message from said mail server when the information of the destination device obtained by said destination device information obtaining system only designates the electronic device to second determination system.

Other prior art cited

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a. Pena et al, US pat. No.6,704,039.
- b. Moritsu et al, US pub. No.2002/0049670.
- c. Wenoeur et al, US pub. No.2002/0199001.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khanh Dinh whose telephone number is (571) 272-

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3936. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.m. to 5:00 P.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zarni Maung, can be reached on (571) 272-3939. The fax phone number for this group is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:
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